

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET PROVIDES HONEST, RESPONSIBLE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

“For too long, our budget has not told the whole truth about how precious tax dollars are spent... We need to be honest with ourselves about what costs are being racked up -- because that's how we'll come to grips with the hard choices that lie ahead.”

– President Barack Obama, 2/26/09

Last week, President Obama delivered to Congress a budget outline that shows real leadership and makes the tough, responsible choices necessary to address the challenges facing our nation. In order to get us back on a fiscally sustainable path, it was important for the President to provide an honest assessment of our fiscal outlook, including known costs that have been left off the budget for years, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Alternative Minimum Tax patch, adjustments to Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate for physicians, and emergency aid for natural disasters. In addition, the President put forward specific proposals to pay for his priorities, including health care reform, investments in clean energy, and middle class tax relief. While there is no denying a tough road ahead, the President's budget takes an important step in returning to an open and transparent government.

Experts Applaud President Obama's Honest Budget:

“One hopeful sign is the president's commitment, in the proposed budget summary to be released tomorrow, to ban accounting gimmicks that President Bush embraced. It's a refreshing, more honest approach that will give the public a better picture of the crushing deficits that need to be addressed.” – The Philadelphia Enquirer, 2/25/09

“And these new priorities are laid out in a document whose clarity and plausibility seem almost incredible to those of us who grew accustomed to reading Bush-era budgets, which insulted our intelligence on every page. This is budgeting we can believe in.” – Paul Krugman, Nobel Prize winning economist, 2/27/09

“The Administration should be commended for the increase in transparency in the budget resulting from including the policies they support. This is a vast improvement on the past practice of omitting policies that would clearly be part of the budget.” – Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB), 2/26/09

“Obama drew praise from some quarters for his determination. Reischauer said ‘it's an honest budget,’ and shows that Obama will pursue one of his top priorities in a deficit-neutral manner.” – CQ: Robert Reischauer, President of the Urban Institute and former Director of the Congressional Budget Office, 2/26/09

“This nation needs, for a change, investment in education, health care, infrastructure and fair taxes for the vast majority of Americans. The Obama administration has made a serious stab at an honest budget that reflects real national needs. It's about time a president did that.” – Chattanooga Times Free Press, 2/27/09

“Obama's budget is far more honest than the ones that preceded it.” – David Brooks, New York Times, 2/27/09